

finding another reason to express a need for greater gun control in this country. I am not sure what that need is. We all know our citizens are concerned about violence.

We all know we have citizens in our country who act out their frustrations in violent ways. It is tragic that we believe we can simply turn to Congress that will pass a law and, therefore, the violence will go away.

Are the President and the Vice President and the Attorney General trying to hide something? Are they trying to hide the fact that during the Clinton administration arrests and prosecutions of citizens who violate Federal firearms laws has dropped by over 70 percent?

Is the President trying to mask the fact that the Puerto Rican terrorists to whom he offered clemency were violators of Federal firearms laws and they killed American citizens?

Is this President, once again, trying to throw up a political smokescreen by simply saying we need more laws against the use of guns or the ownership of guns or the second amendment rights when he, the President, in my opinion, has violated the intent of the laws as they now stand? If you do not use the law, if you do not prosecute under the law, if you do not enforce the law, then the laws are no good.

That is the message I send to Bill Clinton today: Mr. Clinton, look at your own record. Your own Attorney General has let it be known to U.S. attorneys around the country that it is not worth their time to go after violators of Federal firearms laws.

There is a great program down in Richmond, VA, where a Federal prosecutor said to the local police: You arrest them and I will throw them away, I will put them behind bars if they use a gun in the commission of a crime. Crime dropped precipitously but, more important, crimes with a gun involved dropped dramatically. One fellow was arrested at a 7-Eleven with a stick, and after he was arrested, the local police said: Why are you robbing a 7-Eleven with a stick?

He said: Because if I used a firearm, they will lock me up down here.

Mr. President, Bill Clinton, don't you get the message now? We have plenty of laws on the books if we had an Attorney General who was a real cop, a supercop, a tough person who was saying to her U.S. attorneys: Let's put them behind bars if they use guns; let's throw those kids out of school who take a gun to school. They do not have the right to be in our schools if they are putting the rest of our kids in jeopardy.

Last year that happened over 3,000 times and only 13 were prosecuted. Sorry, Mr. President, sorry, Mr. Vice President, sorry, Ms. Attorney General, passing laws does not a safer world make. Enforcing the ones we have, being concerned about the culture, being concerned about the kids, their parents, and their educators in a

way that not only makes a safe school but makes a concerned citizen is going to drop violence in America. Do not give the American public a political placebo by simply passing another law.

I thank my colleague from Wyoming, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I thank my friend from Idaho. Certainly, this is one of the issues that is contentious and will, I suppose, be debated some more. I agree with the notion we need to do something more than passing more laws. It has no evidence of success.

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, one of the bills currently being considered, and is very important to the West particularly, is the Interior funding bill, the bill that funds the Interior Department, national parks, the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and others. It is relatively small compared to others. It is around \$13 billion, \$14 billion. I never thought I would suggest that is small, but compared to \$360 billion it is relatively small.

It has been tied up for a number of reasons. It has to do with the so-called land legacy the administration has been pushing recently, the idea of purchasing a great amount of land that has something to do with S. 25 that will bring in dollars from the Outer Continental Shelf royalties to be used in this area.

The controversy is over the purchase of additional lands. There are some good things about S. 25—taking some more money from oil royalties and using them for parks. I am chairman of the Parks Subcommittee, and I met this morning with the new advisory committee that will be focusing on concessions. The parks are more and more in demand, more and more people are coming to them, and more and more people are taking advantage of the parks, one of the legacies of this country. We are having problems with the upkeep of the infrastructure that must be done to preserve historic and natural values. I support that.

The park system, of course, has to be part of another section of parks, and that is local and State parks. National parks are not designed to provide all the services that people need. In communities, these are local responsibilities. Ball parks, for example, are put in by State and local parks. So they, too, need additional funding.

One of the interesting areas, particularly those in the West where they do a great deal of wild game hunting, is a thing called teaming for wildlife. In our State, for example, the funds that go to the game and fish department come from the purchase of licenses for game animals. They spend a great deal of their time dealing with animals that are not game animals that are threatened, endangered.

The problem, however, is the administration insists on having \$1 billion a year to spend as they choose to buy land. This week, we had a hearing on the Forest Service setting aside 40 million acres by fiat, by administrative decree, to be used for de facto wilderness, if they choose, when under the law clearly to set aside land of that kind is the responsibility of the Congress.

We are having increasing difficulty with that. I do not know whether it is driven by the President's desire to have a legacy, to be a latter century Theodore Roosevelt, or whether it is the environmental aspect of the Gore campaign. The fact is, the White House is not a monarchy; it does not decide to do these things individually. There has to be a cooperative arrangement with the Congress, whether it is purchasing or whether it is assigning different designations to land. That is the way it is, and it needs to be preserved in that fashion, in my judgment.

We need to move forward with the Interior bill. It is one of about three bills that remains out of the 13, which is kind of surprising because it is one upon which most people here agree. There are a couple of things in it that are being used which I think are not realistic. One has to do with permits for grazing on Forest Service lands. Ranchers in the West—they have their base lands, of course—use grazing so we can have multiple use of public lands and forests, have grazing leases. In order to renew those leases, there needs to be a study. No one argues with the idea there needs to be a study. Unfortunately, they have not been able to keep up with the number of studies that need to be made, and so the study is not made before the permit expires and the Federal Government says: That's too bad, you're out of luck; take your cows and go home—when it has nothing to do with the permittee having not gotten the job done.

What this amendment to the Interior bill says is the permit will be renewed for a period of time until this study can be made. If the study is made and there have to be changes, then there can be changes. That is held up somehow by the White House, and they are making a big thing and separating that out.

The other is on oil royalties. We worked a long time trying to get fairness in oil royalties, taking out some of the charges and costs before the Government takes over, and percentage of royalties. We have not come to an agreement. This simply says, let's set it aside until the Congress and the executive department can come together. Again, not a willingness to work in a team fashion.

I am hopeful we can get by those kinds of things this week. We are aiming to get out of here in 3 days, in fact. The fact is, it is possible.

There are really only about three bills that need to be determined. Everyone knows what changes need to be

focused on, what kind of concessions need to be made on both sides to make this happen. Usually, as we come down to the end, it is amazing how quickly some things can be done as opposed to when they just stretch out in the future.

So our goals are to have no Government shutdown—certainly that is the Republican position for the rest of this year—we are settled on not having any new taxes to finance this year's new programs—we certainly have an adequate amount of money—and we are committed to paying down the publicly held debt and to protecting the Social Security surplus. These are the kinds of things I think everyone can agree upon if we can get to it this time.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TERRORISM AND ABORTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last Thursday, I was reading the morning newspaper in Washington when I came across an article describing for, lack of a better description, the emotional stress of a doctor, Steven Dixon. Dr. Dixon, after a lifetime of study and sacrifice, indicated he was going to give up the practice of medicine. Why? Because terrorists had broken his 40-year-old spirit. This 40-year-old doctor decided he wasn't going to practice medicine anymore. His will to work had been broken.

Dr. Dixon maintained a medical practice in the downtown DC area. Dr. Dixon, by training, was certified to be an obstetrician/gynecologist. In his practice, he helped women with a multitude of medical problems—basic checkups, physicals, and problems unique to women. On occasion, he terminated pregnancies. What did these people do to run Dr. Dixon out of the practice of medicine? They distributed wanted posters with his name and photograph like those you see in the post office. He received numerous threatening phone calls to his home and his office. Various threatening mail was sent to his home and office. These are some of the things that happened to Dr. Dixon.

In the United States, the highest court in the land, the U.S. Supreme Court, the same court that established the way commerce is conducted between the 50 States, the same court that decreed education cannot be separate and be equal, the same court that set precedence for the cleansing of Government by its overview of Watergate—this same U.S. Supreme Court has set forth a standard as to how abortion in the United States is legal. That is the final word, what the Supreme

Court says in our country. Whether one agrees or disagrees, it is the law of this Republic.

But some are unwilling to follow the law of the land. They think they know better. This has led to violence, vandalism, brutal protests at legal clinics established to deal with a multitude of female-related health problems. In the last 20 years, there has been an average of 40 of these acts each week—bombings, arsons, death threats, kidnappings, murders, tires slashed, oil drained from cars, sugar put in gas tanks, blood splattered on people's homes and sidewalks and places of business. There have been 38,000 acts during less than two decades—38,000 acts of terrorism.

I am going to talk now about some examples of these terrorist acts. For example, people who work in entities, such as Planned Parenthood clinics, face acts of violence, threats, intimidation. In 1998, at just such clinics, there were multiple murders, bombings, and arsons, a score of butyric acid attacks. That is a chemical compound that burns and leaves an awful smell. Anti-choice violence and terrorism is worsening. It should be stopped. Dr. Dixon, who I have never met, who many read about last Thursday, which caused me to begin thinking about this issue, stated in a letter:

It is ironic that I am a target, because my entire career has been about educating and empowering women to help prevent unintended pregnancies. While I have always supported a woman's right to have this legal procedure, I actually performed few abortions for my patients. In fact, I stopped performing them because of the stress associated with this terrorism. Sadly, the ongoing threat to my life and my concern for the safety of my loved ones has exacted a heavy toll on me, making it necessary that I discontinue practicing.

I don't know Dr. Dixon, never met him, never talked to him. But those who threaten Dr. Dixon are cowards, terrorists, no different than the people who blew up the New York City Trade Center. They are murderers. These killers and would-be killers and terrorists call each other patriots. The true patriots of this Nation are those who have given their all in the fields of battle, places called the Bulge and the beaches of Guadalcanal, Pork Chop Hill in Korea, and in Vietnam. And many people who haven't given their lives have sacrificed a great deal. Many serve in this Chamber. Under our system of government, which has been in existence for more than 200 years, the law of the land can only be changed by peaceful political means, through persuasion, debate, demonstrations that are peaceful in nature, grassroots political activity, the assertion of one's feelings at the ballot box, but never, never, through violence and intimidation. What is now taking place in our country by these zealots is despicable.

Why do I say what I have said? Why do I conclude this? Let me travel a little bit. Remember, we have 38,000 of these terrorist acts, and I am going to

talk about a few of these demonstrations of viciousness. A manual has been produced by a group called the Army of God. It is a manual directing there to be no trial, no jury, no appeal, no stay of execution. Their clear declaration is to kill abortion doctors and people associated with abortion clinics—kill whoever they decide should be murdered.

Doctor Barnett Slepian. I didn't realize this until after the murder had taken place, but Dr. Slepian's niece worked for me here in Washington. She is now a writer of some acclaim. She had an article published in the last issue of *George* magazine. She is from Reno, NV, and is a wonderful young lady. Dr. Barnett Slepian was shot and killed by a bullet that came through his kitchen window at the same time the doctor was having dinner with his family in his kitchen. After this brutal murder, this cowardly act, his death was mocked publicly. His murder was commended by some groups. The killer, even though identified, has not been apprehended.

In Birmingham, AL, at a health clinic, there was a bomb blast which killed the security guard who was there, a man by the name of Robert Sanderson. He was a police officer trying to make some money on the side. Emily Lyons, a nurse, was severely injured and left nearly blind and with medical bills of almost \$1 million. Eric Robert Rudolph has been charged with this attack. He is the man who is being chased through the hills in the south, someplace in North Carolina. He is one of the FBI's Ten Most Wanted. He is yet to be found.

In December of 1996, Dr. Calvin Jackson was stabbed many, many times. He lost at least four pints of blood, and one ear was severed. His assailant was apprehended a few hours later, after entering another clinic carrying a filleting knife.

John Salvi—at about the same time this Jackson matter took place—was tried for two murders of clinic receptionists, people who were secretaries—Shannon Lowney and Lee Ann Nichols. He attempted to kill five others. He fired bullets into these clinics in Brookline, MA, and Norfolk, VA.

It is hard for me to say this, but a Reverend, Rev. Paul Hill, a well-known protester and director of the anti-choice group called Defensive Action, was convicted in the fall of 1994 for the murders of Dr. John Britton and a 74-year-old man who happened to be with him outside a health clinic in Pensacola, FL.

The two victims were shot with a 12-gauge shotgun. Before the shootings, Reverend Hill had been previously arrested for his activities where he advocated continual use of force.

Dr. David Gunn, a physician, was murdered during a protest at a Pensacola clinic. Wanted posters featuring Dr. Gunn's photograph, telephone number, and schedule were distributed at an Operation Rescue rally in Montgomery, AL, and other places.